

very best wishes to the Board and its membership for many more years of success!

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
SHERIFF GERALD T. McFAUL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute of Sheriff Gerald T. McFaul for the exemplary service he has shown to our community during his 38 years in public office. As the longest serving sheriff in Cuyahoga County history, Gerald has been a vital asset to our community.

In 1957, only two weeks out of high school, Gerald started an apprenticeship at the Pipefitters Local 120 and has been a proud member for 53 years. At the same time he ran for Cleveland City council—and lost. But Gerald was committed to helping his community and on his third try won a seat, which he kept for five consecutive terms.

At 31, he became the youngest Majority Leader in Cleveland City Council history. I too at age 31 was elected to a public office in Cleveland, when I was voted the youngest mayor ever of a major American city. So I can tell you personally that this speaks volumes to his character.

Because Gerald is interested in justice issues and having a desire to stop racist practices in the police department he decided to run for sheriff. He was elected in 1976 and has been in office for more than 28 years.

Sheriff McFaul is a pillar of our community and has worked to keep the streets of Cuyahoga County safe with the utmost respect for the rule of law and the people of this fine county.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly pleased that the people of Cuyahoga County turned to Gerald T. McFaul, to serve as sheriff for more than 28 years. Please join me today in honor and recognition of a person who has willingly assisted the residents of Cuyahoga County for nearly four decades.

HONORING CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, CITRUS COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sheriffs Office in Citrus County, FL.

Local Sheriffs offices are the first responders to crimes and disasters and are a key element of support in our communities. It is important that we recognize the hard work and dedication of these men and women, and never take their service for granted.

These deputies make daily sacrifices and put themselves at risk keeping our communities safe. This office has shown professional excellence this past year and their work has truly made our county a safer place.

Events like the one today hosted by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce provide

the camaraderie and support these dedicated men and women deserve. This Appreciation Barbeque allows for the employees of the Sheriff's Department to come together after a very difficult and heart wrenching year. The generosity of the community as a whole has made this event possible and I thank them for it.

Unfortunately, I was unable to join them today at Liberty Park in Inverness, FL. I was unavoidably detained by Congressional votes here in Washington, DC, and could not return in time for the event. I look forward to joining them in the future when I am home in Citrus County.

The Mission of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office is to maintain peace and order by providing law enforcement services that are of the highest professional quality. I would argue they have far surpassed this mission. When tragedy strikes our community, I know we can rely on these truly dedicated public servants.

Mr. Speaker, I once again would like to express my true appreciation for everyone in the Sheriffs Office and all they do for our communities.

TRIBUTE TO THURL ARTHUR
RAVENSCROFT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, my colleague Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan and I rise today to honor the life of Thurl Arthur Ravenscroft, the voice of Tony the Tiger, the orange-and-black-striped spokesman for Kellogg's Frosted Flakes. We would like to express our heartfelt condolences as all of us in Southern Michigan lost a friend and neighbor on May 22, 2005.

Thurl had a long, distinguished career, most notably as the voice of Tony the Tiger for over 53 years. However, his contributions to the entertainment industry didn't stop there. While a celebrity in his own right, he sang backup with other celebrities such as Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra and Rosemary Clooney. Thurl also provided voiceovers for the Grinch in Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "The Cat in the Hat," in "Horton Hears a Who," and "The Lorax."

With his contributions to Kellogg and Dr. Seuss novels, the world of Walt Disney wouldn't be the same without Thurl's voice. His vocal works played important roles in the themes of "The Mickey Mouse Club," "Davy Crockett," and "Zorro," while contributing to the making of "Cinderella," "Dumbo," and "Lady and the Tramp." Thurl's voice was also used in both song and narration for two of Walt Disney's most popular theme rides, "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "The Haunted Mansion."

While most of his career was spent entertaining both the young and old, Thurl courageously served in the U.S. Military for 5 years. In 1942, he enlisted in the Air Transport Command, where he flew numerous special missions over the North Atlantic as an expert navigator. In addition to his work outside the entertainment business, Thurl devoted time to activities in the Christian field that included recording the Book of Psalms for the visually impaired.

All of us in Southern Michigan are deeply saddened with the passing of Thurl Ravenscroft and appreciate all of his service as an entertainer, soldier and Christian. We will forever be able to enjoy his wonderful works whether we are watching great Kellogg commercials, a Disney movie, or attending an amusement park.

Southern Michigan will not be the same without Thurl Ravenscroft. He was GRRRRREEEEAT!

THE PLIGHT OF THE AFRO-COLOMBIANS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring light to the continuing neglect of Afro-Descendent people in Colombia. This past May 21, 2005, Colombia marked the 154th anniversary of the abolition of slavery. Yet, African descendant minorities, who comprises 26 percent of the population, continues to be mistreated, marginalized socially and economically, and are pushed to the fringes of society.

Afro-Colombians are displaced from their ancestral lands which is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world, so that extra-judicial groups such as the FARC, ELN and AUC are able to grow crops for drug trafficking. This population is, by far, the most repressed group in Colombia. They have the lowest national per capita income, the highest rates of illiteracy, high indices of infant mortality, and startling rates of preventable diseases.

Though the Colombian government is starting to make strides in breaking down the power of guerrilla and paramilitary groups, it has not done enough to protect Afro-Colombian territories. Historically, Afro-Colombian territories such as Chocó are of great strategic importance to securing the United States. Chocó is in essence at the crossroads between Central America and South America. It also has access to the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea making Chocó a very attractive launching pad for Colombia's extra-judicial actors.

These illegally armed actors should not and must not be exempt from prosecution for the human rights violations carried out under their leadership. The oppression of the Afro-Colombian population by these military groups must cease and desist. It is the responsibility of the Colombian government to secure its communities by eliminating such groups who have murdered, raped, and displaced the Afro-Colombian people.

We must do more in humanitarian assistance to provide better aid to those Afro-Colombians who have been displaced. Groups such as the Social Solidarity Network, Afro-Latino Development Alliance, the Black Mayors Federation, and AFRODES, in collaboration with local NGOs, are laying the foundation for advancements in healthcare, education, sustainable development, community kitchens, housing and other programs to address the needs of the displaced. Additionally, organizations such as USAID, Pan American Development Foundation, and the Colombian National Police are now finally planning to hire Afro-Colombians for technical and professional positions that will be beneficial to the Afro-Colombian community.